

Cont A4 Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb, which are alloyed with at least one element from the following second group of elements: Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

12. (Amended) Use of a surface coating as claimed in [one of the claims 3 to 11] claim 3, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

13. (Amended) Use of a surface coating as claimed in [one of the claims 3 to 11] claim 3, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

15. (Amended) Analytical test element in which the sample liquid is transported from a sample application site to a determination site, where a detection site lies upstream of the sample application site in the transport direction, wherein the analytical test element [has] comprises at least one surface which is composed of at least one element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water which has been treated by the action of boiling water or water [vapour] vapor.

Please add new claims 16-28 as follows:

16. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the element is derived from the following group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

17. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alloy contains at least two components from the following group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

18. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alloy contains at least one component from the following first group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb, which are alloyed with at least one element from the following second group of elements: Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

19. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

20. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

21. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 5, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

22. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 5, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

23. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 8, wherein the deposited layer has